



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

BOARD MINUTES
December 16, 2003

Members Present: Mike Vance - *President*, Robert Kinney - *Vice President*, Mike Foley - *Treasurer*, Gloria Coney - *Secretary*, Joe-Lee Baker-Bey, George Greenidge, Michael Glavin, Bette Greene, Joanne Hilferty, Mark Maloney, Charlotte Golar Richie and Frederick Umeh

Members Absent: Rev. Gerald Bell, Ralph Cooper, Julia Flashner, Elizabeth Miranda, Valarie Pruitt, Juanita Wade and Thomas W. Yee

BCI Staff: Christine Araujo, Shirley Carrington, Inez Foster, Sherry O'Brien, Tianna Sousa

EDIC Staff: Ken Barnes and Michelle Trousil

Ex-Officios: Senator Dianne Wilkerson

Guests: Lila Reid

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To accept minutes of the October 28, 2003 Boston Connects, Inc. Board meeting.

By:	Mrs. Greene	Second:	Mr. Baker-Bey
Recused:	0	Abstained:	0
Motion:	Carried	Opposed:	0

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Vance expressed his special thanks to the Board, staff and consultant Ms. Richards for the success of the Ex-Offender kick off event on December 4, 2003.

The BCI audit meeting will be scheduled prior to the Annual Meeting, which has been scheduled for January 14, 2003. Mrs. Greene again has graciously accepted the request to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Vance mentioned that the subcommittee has been working on the Disclosure of Interest Policy. A proposal will be ready and distributed to members shortly. Members of the ad-hoc committee are Ms. Hilferty, Ms. Wade and Senator Wilkerson. Ms. Hilferty explained that the group had started with the by-laws, developed draft guidelines which would continue to be refined, and had consulted with legal experts to ensure that it met non-profit standards.

Mr. Vance spoke about the "wish list" the Board discussed three years ago. One item was to open up a checking account for unrestricted funds. Thanks to the efforts of the Board and staff, almost \$10,000 has been raised through the Annual Meeting Ad book and the next step is to open a business checking account.



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

2201 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02119 ■ Phone 617-541-2670 ■ Fax 617-427-0747
A 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit Community Organization in Partnership with the City of Boston

By:	Mrs. Greene	Second:	Ms. Coney	
Recused:	0	Abstained:	0	Opposed: 0
Motion:	Carried			

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Araujo congratulated Mr. Baker Bey, Ms. Coney and Mr. Kinney on their re-election to the Boston Connects, Inc.'s Board of Directors. Ms. Araujo spoke about the upcoming Annual Meeting on January 14th, 2004 which will be held at the Ironworkers Local 7 at 195 Old Colony Avenue in South Boston. As in past years the election of officers will occur just prior to the meeting. She discussed the efforts for the Ad book and thanked all Board members and staff for their efforts in soliciting businesses for ads. Ms. Araujo distributed information and fee structure for six area banks for the BCI business checking accounts. The Crosstown Open House, to recruit residents for permanent jobs will be held on January 12th, 2004 at the Dudley Library. Packages with the information on job openings and qualifications was distributed.

Ms. Araujo spoke briefly about the HUD Tax Conference held in Philadelphia in November and how the current proposal is for EZ's to report on the extent of utilization of the credits. EZ's have questioned if there were a way to more accurately receive thst information such as through the IRS.

Ms. Araujo briefly reviewed the 2003 accomplishments in context of the Work Plan developed by the Board in February. She distributed and discussed the following: Work Plan; spreadsheet of programs by goal that identified which programs have contracts and thus are obligated and those which were in progress; an analysis of the residents, by race, who had participated in certain programs and a comparison of program participants with census information; and an analysis of all agencies that have applied, those which have/have not been funded.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. EX-OFFENDER COMMITTEE:

Mr. Kinney thanked the BCI board members, staff and consultant for the success of the Ex-Offender kick-off event on December 4, 2003. He also thanked Mr. Sykes (Crosstown) and Mr. Jackson (Palmer St.) for attending and remarked on how the employers gave the ex-offenders in the audience hope and optimism. Mr. Kinney concluded that next steps will include a meeting of Board and ex-officio members on January 12th and the retention of Ms. Richards as the consultant to continue the work.

Motion: To authorize the Executive Director on behalf of BCI, to develop a scope of work and to enter into a contract with Carla J. Richards to continue work on the ex-offender initiative. These consultant services will be in an amount not to exceed \$27,500. and will be for the term of January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004. This approval is based on the review of the RFQ and other procurement requirements.

By:	Mr. Baker-Bey	Second: Mr. Kinney	
Recused:	0	Abstained: 0	Opposed: 0

B. PROCUREMENTS:

Ms. Araujo presented the vote for the South Bay GED program. The vote had been tabled at the September and October meetings. Ms. Araujo stated that the respondent was responsive to the



RFP and therefore was continuing to recommend approval. Discussion ensued about why the last procurement for Work Readiness with a rehabilitative component issued in the Spring of 2002 and where that was a single respondent was pulled from the Board vote. Ms. Araujo stated that she pulled that one because the response posed: a conflict of interest; and was non-responsive to the RFP. The RFP was then re-issued, BCI received two responses and the programs are under way. The RFP, response and evaluation forms were available for Board members review.

Opinion was expressed that no additional information was presented on the issue since the October Board meeting. Others stated that while there were some unanswered questions, the Board should move forward on this vote now but, define in writing for future reference, when a procurement is deemed failed. Some board members were concerned about the number of readers; and the point difference in the score. Mr. Kinney remarked on how his organization was the bidder on the Work Readiness and that he had reviewed the response and felt that this procurement should move forward. He however felt that he needs greater clarity on the disclosure of interest. Ms. Hilferty remarked that there needs to be more clarity about what board members need to disclose, who needs to disclose, why and how. She also recommends that the Board define what their role is and what the RFP process is. On the matter of RFP's Ms. Hilferty asked the Board to think about what kinds of information the Board needs to review the process.

Motion: To authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of BCI, to enter into a contract with the following agency to provide 80 seats to incarcerated individuals at the Suffolk County House of Correction facility at South Bay.

X-Cel Adult Education with \$150,000.
Mission Main Resident Services Corp.

By: Ms. Coney Second: Mr. Foley
Recused: 1 (Mr. Kinney) Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0
Motion: Carried

Ms. Araujo briefly discussed the English for Employment RFP. She will review the budget and de-obligations to find additional funding and will discuss it with the Education and Job Readiness committee before re-issuing.

Ms. Araujo disclosed an interest in the technology procurement. Ms. Carrington presented the procurement to the Board. This procurement is to provide families with PC instruction culminating in their having access to a home computer.

Motion: This vote authorizes the Executive Director, on behalf of BCI, to enter into contracts with the following organizations to support 145 zone families in developing computer skills and acquisition of computers through the Computers in the Community program.

Action for Boston Community Development	\$50,977.33
Madison Park Community Development	\$50,977.33
Roxbury Multi-Service Center	\$50,977.33
TOTAL	\$152,932.00

Contracts will run for two years. Second-year funding will be contingent upon successful performance in the first year.

By: Mr. Greenidge Second: Mrs. Greene
Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0 Recused: 2
(Mr. Maloney)
(Mr. Vance)

Meeting adjourned: 7:45p.m.



A true record attest:

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date



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